

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicants originally submitted Claims 1-14. In a previous response, Claims 6-7 and 10-13 were canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and Claim 14 was withdrawn. Presently, the Applicants have amended Claim 1. Support for the amendment can be found, for example, in paragraphs 39, 41, and 44 of the original specification. In the present response, no other claims have been added or canceled. Accordingly, Claims 1-5 and 8-9 are currently pending in the application.

I. Rejection of Claims 1-2, 4-5 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-2, 4-5, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,841,624 to Xu, *et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,106,630 to Frankel and U.S. Patent No. 6,146,504 to Patadia, *et al.* During the telephonic interview of March 16, 2007 and in the Interview Summary electronically delivered on March 22, 2007, the Examiner agreed that the amended claim language appeared to distinguish over the prior art of record. As such, the cited combination of Xu, Frankel, and Patadia does not provide a *prima facie* case of obviousness of amended independent Claim 1 and Claims that depend thereon. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the §103(a) rejection of Claims 1-2, 4-5, and 9 and allow issuance thereof.

II. Rejection of Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Xu, Frankel, and Patadia and in further view of Applicants' admitted prior art. As argued above, the

cited combination of Xu, Frankel, and Patadia does not provide a *prima facie* case of obviousness of amended independent Claim 1. The Examiner has not cited Applicant's admitted prior art to cure the deficiency of the cited combination but to teach the subject matter of dependent Claim 3. (See Examiner's Final Rejection mailed January 25, 2007, page 4.) Additionally, the Applicants do not find where Applicant's admitted prior art cures the deficiency of the cited combination. As such, the above cited combination and Applicant's admitted prior art does not provide a *prima facie* case of obviousness of amended independent Claim 1 and Claims that depend thereon. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the §103(a) rejection of Claim 3 and allow issuance thereof.

III. Rejection of Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Xu, Frankel and Patadia and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,656,093 to Burkhart, *et al.* As argued above, the cited combination of Xu, Frankel, and Patadia does not provide a *prima facie* case of obviousness of amended independent Claim 1. The Examiner has not cited Burkhart to cure the deficiency of the cited combination but to teach the subject matter of dependent Claim 8. (See Examiner's Final Rejection mailed January 25, 2007, page 5.) Additionally, the Applicants do not find where Burkhart cures the deficiency of the cited combination. As such, the above cited combination and Burkhart does not provide a *prima facie* case of obviousness of amended independent Claim 1 and Claims that depend thereon. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the §103(a) rejection of Claim 8 and allow issuance thereof.

IV. Comment on Interview Summary

The Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the Interview Summary electronically delivered March 22, 2007. In the Interview Summary, the Examiner states that while the Examiner agreed that the above amended claim language appeared to distinguish over the prior art of record, a further search and consideration would be needed if the amendment was presented formally. (*See* Interview Summary electronically delivered March 22, 2007, Continuation Sheet.) While it is certainly in the purview of the Examiner to conduct a new search, the Applicants would like to point out that a new search based on a removable, detachable pedestal slip cover would most likely identify the same references that the original search based on a removable pedestal cover identified. As such, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider the application as presently claimed based on the references from the existing search.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Applicants now see all of the Claims currently pending in this application to be in condition for allowance and therefore earnestly solicit a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-5 and 8-9.

The Applicants request the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 480-8800 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present application. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, credits or overpayments to Deposit Account 08-2395.

Respectfully submitted,

HITT GAINES, PC

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles W. Gaines".

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